

### COMPARISON OF GRADUATION RATE CALCULATION METHODS

	<b>STATE GRADUATION RATE</b>	<b>FEDERAL GRADUATION RATE</b>
<b>Who's included in the graduation rate calculation?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students who enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade at the same high school in the same year</li> <li>• All students who enroll at the school after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year of the cohort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students who enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade at the same high school in the same year</li> <li>• All students who enroll at the school after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year of the cohort</li> </ul>
<b>Who's not included in the graduation rate calculation?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who transferred to another public or nonpublic school, including homeschool and virtual schools</li> <li>• Students withdrawn because of long term medical condition</li> <li>• Students who are deceased</li> <li>• Students detained by a law enforcement agency or the Department of Corrections</li> <li>• Students placed by court order or the Department of Child Services</li> <li>• Students who attended school in Indiana for less than one school year and the location of the student cannot be determined</li> <li>• Students whose location cannot be determined and have been reported as missing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who transferred to another school/educational program that awards a diploma</li> <li>• Students who transferred to prison/juvenile facility &amp; participate in an educational program that awards a diploma</li> <li>• Students who emigrated to another country</li> <li>• Students who are deceased</li> </ul>
<b>Who counts as a graduate?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who earn a general, Core 40, Academic Honors, or Technical Honors Diploma in 4 years or less</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who earn a general, Core 40, Academic Honors, or Technical Honors Diploma in 4 years or less</li> <li>• Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who earn an alternate diploma</li> </ul>
<b>Who does not count as a graduate?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who are retained</li> <li>• Students who earn a GED, certificate of completion, certificate of attendance, or any similar or lesser credential, such as a diploma based on meeting individualized education program goals</li> <li>• Students who leave school for any non-approved reason (see "Who's not included in the graduation rate calculation?" for approved reasons)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who are retained</li> <li>• Students who earn a GED, certificate of completion, certificate of attendance, or any similar or lesser credential, such as a diploma based on meeting individualized education program goals</li> <li>• Students who leave school for any non-approved reason (see "Who's not included in the graduation rate calculation?" for approved reasons)</li> </ul>

### **Graduation Rate under the Every Student Succeeds Act**

- ESSA requires that each State’s accountability system include a measure of the four-year graduation rate for each school
- The measure of the four-year graduation rate that is included in the State’s accountability system must utilize the calculation method outlined in the ESSA regulations
- The measure of the four-year graduation rate that is reported on the state and LEA report cards must utilize the calculation method outlined in the ESSA regulations
- NOTE: ESSA does not require

### **What is an alternate diploma?**

- A diploma for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, as defined by the State, that is:
  - Standards-based
  - Aligned with the State’s requirements for a regular high school diploma; and
  - Obtained within the time period for which the State ensures the availability of a free appropriate education to children with disabilities

### **How are students who are on the alternate diploma counted in the graduation cohort?**

1. Student is assigned to the cohort with other students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade at the same high school in the same year, and ensure that student remains in that cohort through grade 12
2. Remove the student from the original cohort if the student does not graduate after 4 years but continues to be enrolled, and continues to pursue the alternate diploma.
3. Reassign the student who graduates with an alternate diploma after more than 4 years to the cohort of students graduating in that year, and include the student in the numerator and denominator of the graduation rate calculation for that cohort.
4. Reassign the student who does not graduate with an alternate diploma to the cohort of students graduating in that year, and include the student in the denominator of the graduation calculation for that cohort.

### **Senate Bill No. 57**

- Amends the section of the Indiana Code chapter that outlines the state calculation method for graduation rate
- Redefines “cohort” to exclude students entering grade 9 who are pursuing a certification of completion per their IEP, or students deemed ineligible to graduation by a case conference committee—these students would not be included in the graduation rate calculation